Sunday, 8:00 AM
Sunday, 11:30 AM
Sunday 6:15 PM

Together in Christ Collaborative
Saint Ann & Saint John
April 6,2025
The Fifth Sunday of Lent

Saturday, 4:00 PM
Sunday, 9:30 AM

2025 Jubilee – Pilgrims of Hope

Church of Saint Ann

103 N. Main St., West Bridgewater 02379
508-586-4880 (24 hour service)

E-Mail: stanns@comcast.net
Website: stannswb.com
Facebook: St. Ann-WB (Account suspended)

Collaborative Office Hours are 9:00-3:00 M-TH

Saint John the Evangelist

210 Central St., East Bridgewater 02333
Office –103 N. Main Street, West Bridgewater, 02379
508-378-4207 or 508 586-4880
E-MAIL: stjohnebridge@comcast.net
Website: www.stjohneb.org

Facebook: St. John the Evangelist-EB (Account suspended)

TOGETHER IN CHRIST COLLABORATIVE

PASTORAL STAFF

Pastor:
Rev. Paul L. Ring
fr_plrstjohn@comcast.net

Priests In Residence
Fr. Peter Francis
Fr. Michael Diochi

Permanent Deacons:

Brendan Fitzgerald (Sr. Deacon)
deaconbrendan@comcast.net

Christopher Connelly
cconnelly@rcab.org

The Together in Christ Collaborative Office Hours are 9AM - 3PM Monday-Friday

EUCHARISTIC LITURGIES

St Ann's

Sunday: 8:00 a.m. & 11:30 a.m.
6:15 p.m.
Daily Mass
Thursday & Saturday
9:00 a.m.

St John's

Saturday Vigil: 4:00 p.m.
Sunday: 9:30 a.m.

Daily Mass:
Wednesday & Friday
9:00 a.m.

Holiday Schedules will vary

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

The Sacrament of Baptism is being celebrated on Saturdays at 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. and on Sundays at 1:30 p.m. These baptisms are not done at the masses currently. Prep classes will take place before the Baptism. Please call the Rectory Office for registration.

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

3:00—3:30 at the church holding the 4 PM Mass
Or by appointment.
Please call the Rectory Office to set up an appointment.

SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE

Contact the Rectory 6 months prior to the intended date of marriage.

SACRAMENT OF THE SICK

If you are in need of the Sacrament of the Sick, please contact the Rectory to make an appointment for a visit from a Priest.

Registration: Families not registered, please call the Parish Office

SAINT ANN'S STAFF

Administrative Assistant:
Arlene Stefano
stanns@comcast.net
508-586-4880

SAINT JOHN'S STAFF

Administrative Assistant:
Deborah Conrad
stjohnebridge@comcast.net
508-378-4207
Music Minister: Erica Vinton

COLLABORATIVE STAFF

Finance & Operations Manager:
Kevin Mercier
bmanager.tic@gmail.com

Director of Music: Rich Cesarini
richcesarini@gmail.com

Director of Ministries: Matthew Brady
directorofministries.tic@gmail.com
774-533-2002

****

St. Ann is a Stewardship Parish

****

Sunday, April 6, 2025

8:00 - Parishioners of the T. I. C. Collaborative
11:30 - Parishioners of the T. I . C. Collaborative
6:15 - Parishioners of the T. I . C. Collaborative

Sunday, April 13, 2025

8:00 - Parishioners of the T. I. C. Collaborative
11:30 - Edward Wright — Memorial
6:15 - Teens of the T. I. C. Collaborative

****

St. John is a Stewardship Parish

****

Saturday, April 5, 2025

4:00 - Esther Sweeney - Birthday Remembrance
Patrick & Ann Sullivan - Remembrance of 67th Wedding Anniversary

Sunday, April 6, 2025

9:30 - Dorothy Walsh & June McHugh— Birthday Remembrances

Saturday, April 12, 2025

4:00 - Robert DiFazio — 5th Anniversary

Sunday, April 13, 2025

9:30 - Parishioners of the T. I. C. Collaborative

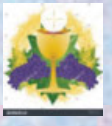
WAYS TO REMEMBER YOUR LOVED ONES

MEMORIAL MASSES
Suggested donation $25+

HOSTS, WINE AND SANCTUARY LAMPS FOR THE WEEK Suggested donation $55
Including a Memorial Mass, Suggested donation $80

FLOWERS FOR THE ALTAR FOR THE WEEK
$85; or including the mass Suggested donation $110

HOSTS, WINE & SANCTUARY LAMPS, FLOWERS $140 including the MASS, is a Suggested donation of $165



Payment for the above memorials would be appreciated TWO weeks in advance, separate from your offertory.

NOTES FROM THE PASTOR

My Dear Friends in Christ,

One can speak of either the "letter of the law" or of the "spirit of the law". When one looks at the letter of the law, one is speaking of what is written in a legal tome or document; it is literally "black and white" (i.e., there is no "gray area" to be found). When one looks at the spirit of the law, they are looking at intent, circumstances and the desire to find the best outcome. These very different approaches are taken by scribes and the Pharisees and by Jesus, Himself, in today's gospel passage.

In this passage, a woman is brought before Jesus by the scribes and the Pharisees; she is "caught in the act" of adultery. The law – the letter of the law – is clear: she is to be stoned to death. It is "black and white" with no gray area, at least not in the eyes of the Jewish authorities of the day. There are a few problems with this "black and white" approach – it had to be followed to the letter, and the authorities failed to do so right from the outset. According to Jewish oral law both the man and the woman had to be brought to the temple gates; in this case, only the woman was, thus violating the law. Jesus then bends down to write the law broken (presumably both the breach by the woman and by the Pharisees), which is what He was supposed to do according to tradition, to show everyone (including the authorities) what law had been broken. After doing this, Jesus says that if anyone is without sin they may cast the first stone. The scribes and the Pharisees realize that Jesus knows that they have broken Jewish law (thus have sinned) and have lost their standing to bring this woman to Him, and Jesus is actually giving them an "exit strategy". The scribes and the Pharisees, one by one, put down their stones and walk away, leaving just Jesus and the woman.

This is where the "spirit of the law" comes in. Jesus, in showing that she is free by the letter of the law, brings her to understand the spirit of God's "law" of unconditional love and forgiveness. He tells her "Neither do I condemn you. Go, and from now on do not sin anymore" (Jn 8:11). He allows her to resume her life, but with the understanding that she is to live it in the "spirit of the law" by allowing God to work in her life. This incident tells us that it is important to live not only by the "letter" of the law, but by its "spirit" as well. When we live by the spirit of the law, we actually go beyond the letter, fulfilling it as Jesus did and calls us to do. May we have the courage to live and worship in that same spirit of God's love.

Have a Blessed (Continuing) Lent,

Fr. Paul

Ministry News

For questions or concerns, please email Matt Brady, our Director of Ministries at Directorofministries.tic@gmail.com

April Family Mass

April 6 at the 9:30 Mass at St. John
Our final Family Mass of the school year is April 6 at the 9:30 Mass at St. John. We invite our kids to do the readings and bring up the gifts, and Fr. Paul has the kids join him around the altar for the homily. There is also coffee and donuts in the back of the church after Mass. If your child is interested in bringing up the gifts or doing a reading, please email Matt Brady.

April Teen Mass

Our final Teen Mass of the school year is April 13 at the 6:15 Mass at St. Ann. Similar to Family Mass, we invite our teens to do a reading or bring up the gifts. Fr. Paul also tailors his homily to be relevant to their life and there is contemporary music at the Mass. If your teen is interested in bringing up the gifts or doing a reading, please email Matt Brady.

Sandwich Making for Capuchin Mobile Ministries

April 21 at 6:30 pm at St. Ann
Join us as we make sandwiches for Fr. Paul and the team from Capuchin Mobile Ministries to distribute to the homeless in Boston and Cambridge. All are welcome, especially those in need of service hours!

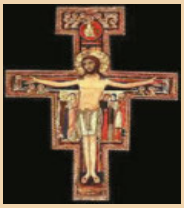
Tenebrae

April 15 @ 7 pm St. Ann
Start your Holy Week with our annual Tenebrae service. The word tenebrae is Latin for darkness, so this service will feature the gradual darkening of the church by extinguishing of candles on the altar. Through scripture readings and the singing of psalms, it honors the loneliness and darkness that characterizes Jesus' passion.

Easter Egg Hunts

This year we are having **two** egg hunts on Easter Sunday (April 20)!!
St. John: following the 9:30 Mass
St. Ann: following the 11:30 Mass

All are welcome! Special thanks to the Knights of Columbus and Janice Martin for their support of our egg hunts.



MY FRANCISCAN JOURNEY

Today's gospel deals with the "letter of the law" and the "spirit of the law". In this gospel passage, a woman is accused of adultery and is brought before Jesus after having already faced the scribes and the Pharisees. They presented their case to Jesus, asking His opinion by "framing" it within the Mosaic Law (the Law of Moses). Jesus, realizing that they are trying to trap Him, turns the question around by making the (now) famous statement "Let the one among you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone at her" (John 8:7). He is, in essence, taking the situation from the "letter of the law" to the "spirit of the law". Jesus, having been raised in the temple, would know well the Mosaic Law. But Jesus takes it further, beyond the letter, by putting the onus on the scribes and Pharisees.

St. Francis was a good and noble churchman, one cognizant of the need for Canon (that is, Church) Law. While he was also aware of the need for a "Rule" for his order, he was hesitant to establish one (beyond that which is already written in Canon Law), because he did not want to have the order get "bogged down", as it were, in the letter of the law. For Francis, the Order was about relationships, it was about community, and it was about connection to the world in a practical and visceral way. First written in 1221, Francis established the Rule so that he may be able to establish uniformity and consistency in the way of life of Francis cans. In each "order" of Franciscans, there have been established "rules". This Rule dealt with the First Order, whereas the Rule for the Second Order (the Poor Clares) was established in 1223. For the Secular Franciscan (or Third) Order, a Rule was written in 1221. In all of these cases, the Rule was established to bring order to chaos, uniformity to haphazardness. It was not meant to "hamstring" anyone within a particular order, but merely to bring working parameters to each Order.

While all of these Orders have particular "letters of the law", it is the "spirit of the law" that truly drives Franciscans. As I said before, it's about relationships, community, and making connections to the world. For the Secular Franciscan, it's about "bringing life to Gospel and Gospel to life". It's about taking the rule and applying it to the everyday encounters we have with people in the world. It's about making real connections to the world, both people and nature. Francis would see the Secular Franciscans as truly "hands" and "feet" of Christ in the world, serving our brothers and sisters (as well as caring for the natural world) as would Christ. It's ultimately about Christ and our willingness to go beyond the "letter of the law" and truly explore and incorporate the "spirit of the law" into our everyday lives.

Pax et Bonum,

Fr. Paul, OFS

THE SECOND COLLECTION THIS WEEK IS TO BUILD UP THE EXPENSES FUND.

EASTER IS COMING

THE LIGHT IS ON FOR YOU —Confessions
Wednesdays 6:30—8:00 PM

3/12 @ St. John's
3/19 @ St. Ann's
3/26 @ St. John's
4/2 @ St. Ann's
4/9 @ St. John's
4/16 @ St. Ann's

STATIONS OF THE CROSS — Fridays at 7:00 PM
Each week Simple Suppers will be held at 6:00 PM before Stations - Pot Luck - Please bring a meatless dish.

3/7 — St. John's
3/14 — St. Ann's
3/21 — St. John's
3/28 — St. Ann's
4/4 — St. John's
4/11 — 6:00 Simple Supper with First Church & Stations at 7:00 at St. Ann's

HOLY WEEK

4/15 - 7PM — TUESDAY — TENEBRAE — ST. ANN'S

4/17 - 7 PM — MASS OF THE LORD'S SUPPER (WITH WASHING OF THE FEET) ST. JOHN'S.

4/18 - GOOD FRIDAY
9:00 MORNING PRAYERS AT ST. JOHN'S

3:00 PM — SEVEN LAST WORDS WITH EB CLERGY ASSOC. AT ST. JOHN'S
7:00 PM — GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE — ST. ANN'S

4/19 - 9:00— MORNING PRAYERS AT ST. ANN'S
8:00 PM — EASTER VIGIL MASS—ST. JOHN'S
4/20 EASTER SUNDAY MASS SCHEDULE
8:00 — ST. ANN'S
9:30 — ST. JOHN'S
11:30 — ST. ANN'S

Please pray for health and healing for Pope Francis, entrusting him to the healing care of our Lord, so that, together with the flock entrusted to his care, he may come to everlasting life. unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

St Ann Prayer Line:

To request prayers from members of Saint Ann's Prayer Line for yourself, another person in need, or a special intention, please call or email Linda Santry at 508-586-6535 or linda@santry.org. If you would like to join the telephone tree or e-mail distribution list, please contact Linda. We would like to expand our membership for this worthy endeavor.

Please keep the following in your prayers:

Pope Francis, Denise Robichaud, Patricia Estes, William Neyman, Frank Conroy, Kay Evans, Angela McDevitt, Janet Daly, Kathy Conrad, Joan Ward-Fusco, Kenneth McLaughlin, Nancy McHugh, Jerry Paluch, Jeannette Arruda, Dottie & Leo Slack, Joan Fisher, Jay Lasemina, Rocco Zarrella, Nancy Arcadipane, Alicia Boucher, Irene Churchll, Matthew Owings, Arthur Pelton, Courtney, Hannah Previti, Deb Gifford, Karen, Dan, Candice Frabetti, Patrick McCormick, Rob Levesque, Alex & Landon, Susan Coronella, Stephen D'Guiseppe, Ann Bortolotto, Elaine Landolfi, Cathy Hadfield, Helen Bomar, Stacy McCarthy, Mark Neumeier, Johnny MacDonald, Merilyn, Sandy, Tina DeCost & The residents of Sachem & Westview & all our service men and women serving in the military.

Prayer of Community

O God,

Help us to see each other as You see us, not by our faults or failings, but by our identity as Your own. Give us Your eyes to see, Your heart to love.

Amen.

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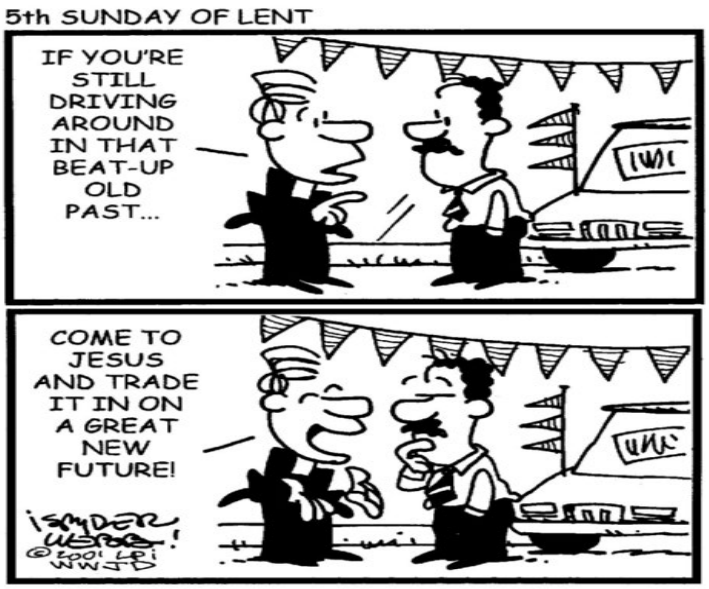

St Ann — ST. VINCENT DE PAUL
P O Box 474 West Bridgewater MA 02379
To join please call — TINA ANTHONY
508-245-5481

Please help St. Ann's, St. Vincent de Paul Committee help our homeless neighbors.

We are looking for donations of:
Hats, Gloves/mittens, handwarmers, hand sanitizer, cleansing wipes, toothpaste, toothbrushes, $5.00 Dunkin Donuts gift cards, etc.

To join or get more information on how we can help a neighbor in need, please call Tina Anthony at: 508-245-5481.

Next meeting: April 8, 2025

West Bridgewater Food Pantry
457 Rear, South Main Street, Unit #1
West Bridgewater 02379
WHEN: Curbside distribution the FIRST and THIRD Wednesday each month
TIME: 1:45-3:00PM or 5:30-6:00PM
Need: jelly, rice pilaf, pancake mix, syrup, pasta sauce, baked beans
Cash donations also accepted.

The Society of Saint Vincent de Paul
Saint John's Conference
PO Box 544
East Bridgewater MA 02333
Call the Food Pantry Hotline for food / assistance
Hotline—508-378-3760

PANTRY HOURS WILL REMAIN THE SAME THROUGHOUT THE YEAR.

Our pantry is open on the First and Third Monday of each month. When pantry days fall on a major holiday, the pantry will open on the Tuesday of that week.

First Monday - 3:00 - 5:30 Third Monday - 3:00 - 4:30

April 7 & April 21

Donations are always appreciated but please call to let us know you are dropping off. **508-378-3760**

The Pantry is a little low—needed: any food, especially tuna, peanut butter, soups, pasta & pasta sauce, cereal, toothpaste, tooth brushes, toilet paper.

Gift cards are also a great help. $5 — $25 cards are easier to distribute than large sums., ie $100

The Allure of Being Right

It wasn't a real question.

"The law of Moses says we should stone her. What do you say?" the Pharisees asked Jesus as they brought the adulterous woman before him. But they weren't really asking. They didn't care what Jesus' answer was. They didn't ask his opinion because they wanted to know. They asked because they wanted to use his words against him.

Righteousness, truth — that wasn't the goal. The goal was being right.

And in the middle of the whole scene, dragged before Jesus, used as a literal prop in this staged drama, is a woman. A real flesh-and-blood woman.

I find myself wanting to know more about her. She had been "caught in the act," they claimed, but I wonder what that even means. With whom was this act committed, and what were the reasons for her participation in it? Was she coerced? Was she scared? Was she confused? Was it really a cut-and-dry, black-and-white situation of adultery, of lust, of making the wrong decision?

We will never know the answers to these questions, and it doesn't matter — it's not our business. God knows the answers. God knows the truth of the matter: what she did, what she chose, what she felt. Because she wasn't a prop to Him. She was a person.

When God looks at us, he sees more than the worst decisions we've ever made.

I worry that we use one another as props even today, when we try like the Pharisees to illustrate "What is Right." We have a terrible tendency to see only decisions, and in doing so we dehumanize the people behind them.

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